[English]

Modernisation of Railway Stations

1083. SHRI B.L. SHARMA 'PREM' : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the plans in repect of expansion and modernisation of Railway Stations in the vicinity of the Capital;

(b) the dates of commencement and completion of the work thereof, scheme-wise; and

(c) the estimated cost thereof, scheme-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (c) Works of extension of platform shed at Ballabgarh costing Rs. 12.46 lakh; provision of booking office and extension of shed on platforms at Faridabad costing Rs. 24.60 lakh and extension of shed on platform at Palwal costing Rs.6.18 lakh were taken up. Provision of booking office at Faridabad has been completed and remaining works are targetted for completion by March, 1998.

Development of Bellary Airport in Karnataka

1084. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of Karnataka had sought clearance from the Union Government to develop Bellary airport in Private Sector; and

(b) if so, the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRIHIM) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Exploration of Uranium and Rare Earth Minerals, Maharashtra

1085. SHRI NARAYAN ATHAWALAY : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether preliminary explorations carried out indicate availability of Uranium and other rare earth minerals in Vidarbha region of Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details of explorations carried out in Maharashtra during the last three years and the outcome thereof; and

(c) the details of action plan worked out to harness mineral resources in Maharashtra and to provide incentives therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) and (b) Preliminary surveys in the Vidarbha region of Maharashtra indicate favourable Geological Horizon particularly in Bhandara and Nagpur districts for rare earth, rere metal and U-mineralisation. Although no economic concentration of Uranium has been located in this region. There were a few rare-metal and rare-earth mineral occurrences located at Pauninala and Salai area in Nagpur district. None of these occurrences however, has been found economically viable.

(c) Since no economic concentration of uranium has been discovered, it is premature to work out detailed action plan for exploitation thereof.

[Translation]

Proposal to Link Bilaspur with Air Service

1086. SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHLE : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) the names of districts in Madhya Pradesh linked with air services;

(b) whether the Government propose to link Bilaspur district of Madhya Pradesh with air service; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) Indore, Bhopal, Raipur, Khajuraho and Gwalior in Madhya Pradesh are airlinked.

(b) and (c) The airport at Bilaspur is not fit for the jet type of aircraft available in Indian Airlines/Alliance Air's fleet. Moreover, the Bilaspur airport is not operational at present since no airline has shown interest in operating flights to this airport due to adequate traffic.

Out of Order Telephone Lines in Hilly/Remote Areas of UP

1087. SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA' : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that telephone lines in hilly and remote areas of Uttar Pradesh have been out of order since long;

(b) if so, whether the Government are making any special efforts to repairs and set in order the damaged telephone lines and telephone service keeping in view the sensibility and strategic importance of this region;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the special schemes implemented in this region in 1995-96 and 1996-97 and proposed to be implemented during 1997-98; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to provide new telephone connections in remote sensitive regions?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : Yes, Sir. Physical lines get damaged due to heavy snow fall and storms. One such storm occurred on 19.1.97 disrupting some telephone lines.